

Studying the "American Type"



Joseph Pierre Nuyttens,
from an
Etching
by Himself.

Interesting Pictures of the American Girl by Joseph Pierre Nuyttens



"Portrait of Miss X."

Mr. Nuyttens's
Delineation
of an American Type.

Portrait in Line and Tint.



A
"Fancy
Dress"
Study.

THE novelist has sought for the American type with the result that no agreement has come as to just what the type is. The painter and sculptor have done the same thing, and again there is no agreement. Each nation is supposed to believe that its women folk are the final flower of creation. They believe this as profoundly in Japan and Siam and Morocco as they believe it in Petrograd or Berlin or Boston.

And yet the American is willing to admit that his case is peculiar; that the extraordinary mixture of races has created a complexity accentuated in many ways by the character of American life, and that the fixing of a single type may be accepted as very difficult indeed.

Among the artists who have been interpreting the American girl with great success is Joseph Pierre Nuyttens, who brought to America from northern Europe traditions of beauty as they flourish in Denmark and Holland and Belgium, and who entered with a true artist's delight into the interpretation of the various, perplexing and so often elusive beauty of the North American continent.

Mr. Nuyttens, after a conscientious study of American femininity as it sits before the easel, is not inclined to believe that there is a single American type. An American spirit, yes; but a physical embodiment of this spirit in a mold that may be called characteristic—that is another matter. It is true that when you see the American girl "in action" you may very often, perhaps in a great majority of instances, pick her out of a social group. But she is diverse, and, like so many other artists, this distinguished etcher is rather glad the fact is so.

Mr. Nuyttens's work in blended line and color is full of charm. Society likes his interpretations. At his studio in New York, and in his haunt under the congenial roof of Chicago's Fine Arts building, some of the most prominent social debutantes and leaders have been pictured in a memorable way. In idealized gowns, in the latest modes, and in fancy dress he studies the spirit of each personality, seeking rather to achieve the individual translation than to prove a point. So that each of his portraits has distinctiveness as well as artistic allure-ment.